DC

9

WONDER WOMAN

KING
SAMPERE
MOREY

13+
TEEN

ALSO FEATURING
TRINITY
KING - ORTEGA - SÁNCHEZ

DAWN OF DC

Life on Apokolips is hell.
And she's ready to break free.

BARDA

New York Times **bestselling writer and artist**

NGOZI UKAZU

tells an all-new tale of DC's fiercest warrior

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DC

A New Graphic Novel for Young Adults

JUNE

WHERE ARE YOU *NOW?*

IN AMERICA. IN A *PRISON.*

BEHIND A DOOR SOMEWHERE, IN *CHAINS,* WITH A RAT.

I DON'T *KNOW.* DOES IT MATTER?

AND WHERE AM *I?*

DON'T BE *SILLY.* NOT NOW, *PLEASE.*

YOU ARE *HERE.* WITH *ME.*

HAVING A DINNER, DRINKING *CHAMPAGNE.*

FOR A WOMAN SO *DEDICATED* TO TRUTH...

...YOU TELL SOME VERY *CLEVER* LIES.

THIS ISN'T A RESTAURANT.

AND I NEVER GOT MY CHAMPAGNE.

YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY. NEXT TIME, PERHAPS.

OR AFTER THAT.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

DO YOU KNOW?

THERE'S NO SUN IN THE CELL. NO LIGHT.

THE MEALS DO NOT COME REGULARLY. NOTHING ELSE COMES AT ALL.

I USED TO COUNT--SCRAPE THE LINES INTO THE WALLS WITH MY NAILS--BUT I DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO START OR STOP.

CAN YOU GUESS?

WHO AM I GOING TO TELL IF YOU'RE WRONG?

THREE WEEKS IN THE CAGE. MORE, PROBABLY. FOUR?

I'M SORRY. I WISH I WAS BETTER.

DON'T.

I THINK YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE.

DC COMICS PRESENTS

SACRIFICE PART 2

TOM KING WRITER — **DANIEL SAMPERE** ARTIST — **TOMEU MOREY** COLORIST — **CLAYTON COWLES** LETTERER

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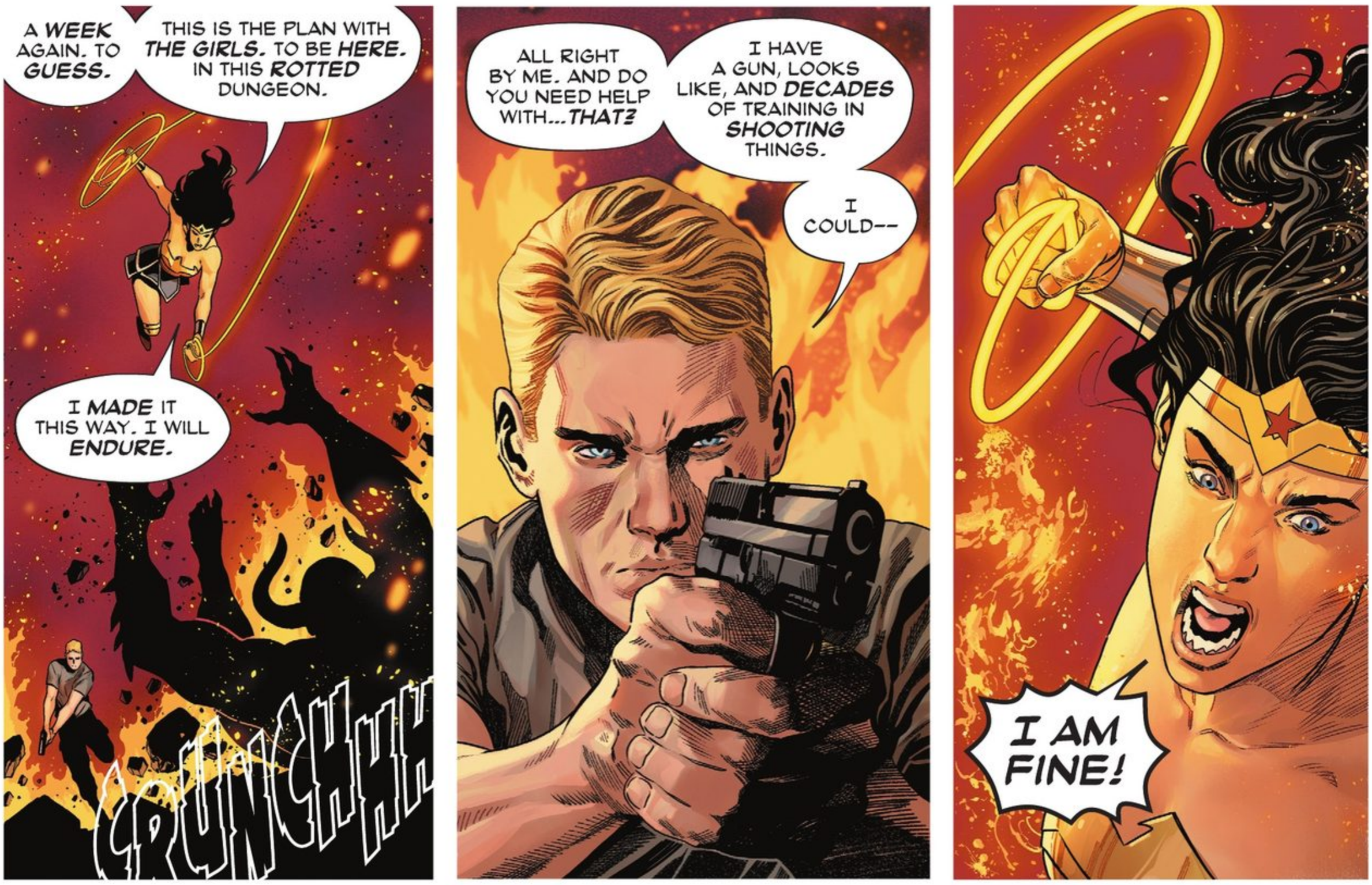
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JOE SHUSTER & JERRY SIEGEL • BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY



Y'KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO *TELL* ME EACH TIME. HOW LONG IT'S BEEN.

I GET YOU DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT HERE TO *STRESS* YOU OUT OR ANYTHING.

I AM FINE.

SHE'S A *BEAUTIFUL* ANIMAL.

YOU CAN TELL SHE *LOVES* YOU.

JUMPA? SHE'S A SMALL, STUBBORN, *OPINIONATED* HALF-MULE...

...WHO NEVER LISTENS TO A WORD *ANYONE* SAYS.

WHEN I *CHOSE* HER, MY MOTHER YELLED AT ME, SAYING THE RUNT WASN'T *WORTHY* OF A PRINCESS.

BUT YOU TOOK HER *ANYWAY.*

BECAUSE SHE *NEEDED* YOU.

WHY HAVE I ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A *FOOL?*

I SHOULD BE *STRONGER.*

WHEN WAS IT *LAST?*

WE WERE HERE FOR SOME *SPY* NONSENSE, WASN'T IT?

YEARS AGO. AND IT WAS *TERRORISTS,* AS I RECALL. REMEMBER? IT TURNED OUT TO BE *DOMINATORS* IN DISGUISE. SO *ALIEN TERRORISTS.*

WE WERE CHASING THEM ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS...AND *ENDED UP* IN THIS LOVELY LOCALE.

THEN WE *STOPPED* CHASING THEM AND JUST... SORT OF...*MADE OUT* INSTEAD.

WE GOT TO THE *BAD GUYS* AND DID THE WHOLE *TAKEDOWN.* JUST, Y'KNOW, *EVENTUALLY.*

THIS IS WHY YOU WERE NOT ALLOWED IN PARADISE, STEVEN.

YOU CAN BE MOST...

...*DISTRACTING.*

WITH WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH NOW, *PRETTY LADY...*

...I *HOPE* SO.

IT WAS *HIM.*

HE PAINED MY *SISTERS.* *HUNTED* ME.

USED *LUTHOR'S* ANTI-SUPER TECHNOLOGY TO BIND ME IN THIS ROOM. LOCKED. *ALONE.*

THIS *MAN.*

THE SOVEREIGN.

KRK

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE *GOOD* TO PEOPLE? ISN'T THAT THE WHOLE *AMAZON* CREED?

AND WAS THAT *GOOD,* DIANA?

I MEAN...

...YOU COULDN'T LET *ME* DO IT? C'MON, DON'T I GET A CHANCE AT *FUN?*

HAHAHAHAHAHA!

IT WASN'T *THAT* FUNNY A JOKE.

I COULD DO *BETTER.*

I MEAN, I *WOULD* DO BETTER, BUT I'M SOMEWHAT LIMITED IN THAT I'M *NOT* MYSELF.

I *ATE* MY RAT.

WHAT?

I KEPT TRYING TO HAVE A *TALK* WITH HIM, AND HE WOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING TO ME.

HE *IGNORED* ME. BUT *I* KNEW HE COULD HEAR. I *KNEW.*

IT MADE ME SO *ANGRY.*

TELLING HIM TO *GO AWAY,* PLEASE. MAYBE I EVEN *BEGGED.* I DON'T ENJOY TO BEG.

HE DID NOT TASTE SO BAD. WET AND WARM AND *SOME* BITTER.

BUT NOT *HORRIBLE.*

AND WHEN THEY STOPPED BRINGING THE *FOOD,* I KEPT *STARING* AT HIM AND EVEN *WARNING* HIM.

THEN THIS DAY, I *PICKED* HIM UP AND *BIT* INTO HIM.

NO.

I... STEVEN...

I THINK I *ENJOYED* IT.

THIS IS HIS *PLAN* TO *BREAK* ME.

I WILL GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR IT. IT IS MUCH BETTER THAN THE FIRST ATTEMPT WITH HIS *PATHETIC* LYING ROPE.

抗

HE UNDERSTANDS ME *MORE* NOW, I THINK.

HE KNOWS I NEED *PEOPLE.*

STEVEN.

I DO NOT *LIKE* BEING BY MYSELF.

AND SO HE PUTS ME IN THIS *KENNEL* AND DENIES ME *EVERYTHING.* NO, *EVERYONE.*

FOR HOW MUCH *TIME,* I DO NOT KNOW. I CANNOT.

I SIT HERE IN THE *DARK* WITH *NOTHING.*

SLAM

NOTHING!

BUT *DIANA*...

...WHAT ABOUT... WHAT ABOUT *ME*?

I'M *HERE*. I'M NOT GOING *ANYWHERE*.

THEY COULD OFFER ME *THE WORLD* TO LEAVE, AND I'D TELL THEM...

...*SHE'S* MY WORLD.

IS THAT... AM I STILL JUST *NOTHING*?

NO. NO, NO.

IT IS *YOU*, STEVEN.

WHEN I SHUT MY EYES, SLIP *AWAY* FROM THE CELL, I SEE YOU AND ME, AND WE ARE IN DIFFERENT PLACES, AND THIS IS *NOT* NOTHING.

I HAVE MY *DOUBTS.*

THERE ARE *MAGICS* IN THE WORLD. *POWERS.*

A MAN WHO *FLIES.*

WHY CAN YOU NOT BE *HERE* WITH *ME?*

YOU'RE NOT MAKING *ANY* SENSE, HON. I'M SORRY, BUT WHAT'S THE POINT IN YOU SAYING *THAT?*

THAT'S NOT HOW WE DO *ANYTHING* OR EVER *HAVE.*

YOU'RE *ALONE.* I'M...IT'S NOT *COMPLICATED,* DIANA. IT'S JUST A *STUPID* GAME YOU'RE PLAYING. IN YOUR HEAD.

NO, PLEASE, YOU DO NOT *UNDERSTAND.*

YES, YOU ARE AN IMAGINED THING, BUT IT IS *IMPORTANT* TO ME.

WHAT THE HELL'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

THAT'S HOW I *JUSTIFY* MY EXISTENCE? JUST BEING YOUR *PLAY THING?*

WHAT *JUSTIFICATION*?! WHY IS THIS NECESSARY?

YOU ARE *STEVEN TREVOR*. I AM *WONDER WOMAN*. IT IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

I'M A *FIGMENT*. A *COPING* MECHANISM.

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY MY *PREFERRED* WAY OF GOING THROUGH LIFE. I GUESS.

HOOOOOOK

IT IS NOT... IT IS...

BY HERA!

DO I NOT HAVE ENOUGH *TROUBLE* NOW? MUST WE *FIGHT* ALSO?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU *NEED* FROM ME.

WHATEVER IT IS, I DON'T THINK *I* CAN GIVE IT.

NOT *HERE*.

JUPITER'S THUNDER...

...I DO NOT NEED *ANYTHING* FROM YOU, *STEVEN!*

I AM BY MYSELF! *LEFT!*

AND SOMETIMES I *SEE* YOU!

THIS IS NOT *NEEDING!*

THIS IS ONLY *NOT* WANTING TO BE *ALONE!*

AND YET, EVEN *HERE*... WHEREVER THIS IS... WHAT *AM* I?

JUST *MORE* ALONE WITH...WITH THIS *ILLUSION* OF YOU.

THE *NOTHING* OF YOU. AND OF *ME*...YOU CANNOT ACCEPT... *I* CANNOT... ACCEPT...

STEVEN...

...HE IS *WINNING.*

IT IS TOO LONG.

YEAH.

WHAT AM I TO DO?

WANT TO HAVE A SNOWBALL FIGHT?

NO THANK YOU.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

IT WAS STRANGE, WHAT HE WANTED *YOU* TO BE.

OR WHAT HE WANTED *ME* TO BE WHEN I AM WITH *YOU*.

DOING VACUUMING, DOING WHATEVER YOU *DESIRE*.

IT *WASN'T* ME, YOU KNOW.

YES, BUT THIS ISN'T *YOU*, EITHER.

SO WE *KEEP* SAYING.

IT IS *WORTH* REPEATING.

IF I AM TO GO *MAD*, IT MIGHT AS WELL BE WITH MY *EYES* OPEN.

BUT ISN'T THE WHOLE *POINT* OF THIS TO SEE HOW *FAR* YOU CAN GO...

...KEEPING THEM *CLOSED?*

IT'S BEEN A *LONG* TIME NOW, I'D GUESS.

WEEKS, MONTHS. AND HERE WE GO *AGAIN.*

CAN I *HELP?*

I DO NOT SEE *HOW.*

WHEN ONE IS *ALONE,* CALLING FOR *AID* IS A WASTE OF BREATH.

AND AT THIS TIME, STEVEN, I REQUIRE EVERY *BREATH* I HAVE.

BUT IF YOU'RE *LOSING* ANYWAY, WHY DOES IT MATTER *WHAT* YOU DO?

MAYBE IT'D BE GOOD TO *ASK.*

OR AT LEAST *ACCEPT.*

I WILL NOT GO DOWN PLEADING FOR *IMAGINARY* SALVATION.

IF *THIS* IS THE END OF ME, ON A COLD FLOOR, ALONE, *SLIDING* AWAY...

...LET IT COME *WITHOUT* MY *WHIMPER.*

NO, THIS ISN'T THE END OF *YOU.*

I WON'T *ALLOW* IT.

YOU CANNOT *SAVE* ME, STEVEN. THIS IS NOT *YOUR* ROLE IN MY LIFE.

IT *NEVER* HAS BEEN.

WELL...

...YOU KEEP *TELLING* ME I'M *NOT* ME.

SO THAT MEANS *I'M* PROBABLY *YOU.*

...WHILE *YOU* SAVE *YOURSELF.*

SO MAYBE *I* CAN'T DO ANYTHING. MAYBE *THAT'S* MY ROLE-- TO JUST *BE* HERE.

TO *LISTEN* TO YOU, TO *APPRECIATE* YOU, TO *ADMIRE* YOU...

THERE IS *ANOTHER* RAT.

SHE STARTED COMING, I DO NOT KNOW WHEN. THERE ARE NO *DAYS* HERE.

LONG AFTER THE FIRST, I AM SURE.

THIS ONE I SPOKE TO, AND SHE WAS *SHY*, BUT AFTER SOME WHISPERS, SHE *SPOKE* BACK.

SHE WAS SEARCHING FOR HER *MATE*.

I DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I THOUGHT TO *LIE*, BUT I COULD NOT.

"IT WAS *ME*," I SAID. "*I* HAVE KILLED HIM."

SHE ASKED ME *WHY*, AND I TOLD HER OF MY *CIRCUMSTANCES*.

SHE CAME UP TO ME, PUT HER *PAW* ON MY HAND.

"I *PITY* YOU," SHE SAID. "I WILL *COMFORT* YOU."

I TOLD HER IT WAS SHE WHO *DESERVED* PITY, SHE WHO HAD *LOST* A LOVED ONE.

IT WAS MY DUTY TO COMFORT *HER*.

AT THIS SHE *LAUGHED*.

"MY *LIFE* IS HELL. I AM HATED AND HUNTED.

"I SURVIVE BY BEING *LOWER* THAN ALL ELSE.

"LIVING WHERE NO ONE *LIVES*, EATING WHAT *NO ONE* WILL EAT, LOVING WHAT *NO ONE* LOVES.

"IT IS DIFFICULT. IT IS DANGEROUS. IT IS *IMPOSSIBLE*.

"AND IT IS *BETTER* THAN WHAT YOU HAVE.

"FOR *YOU*, MY DEAR...

"...*YOU* ARE BEING COMFORTED BY *A RAT*."

I BELIEVE I AM *READY.*

FOR WHAT?

I WILL *KNOCK* ON THE DOOR. A GUARD WILL *HEAR.*

I WILL TELL HIM I *SURRENDER.* THIS *SOVEREIGN* CAN HAVE WHAT HE WANTS.

ALL OF IT.

YOU *CAN'T* DO THAT.

YOU DO NOT *KNOW* ME!

I AM NOT *CLARK!* I AM NOT *BRUCE!*

I AM *DONE!* I *CANNOT* GO ON!

MOVE OUT OF THE WAY, STEVEN. OR I SHALL *MOVE* YOU.

I DIDN'T SAY YOU *WON'T,* I SAID YOU *CAN'T.*

LOOK AROUND, *DIANA.* YOU WANT TO KNOCK ON A *DOOR?*

THERE'S NO *DOOR.*

THERE'S JUST *ME.*

YOU'RE *NOT* CLARK.

AND YOU'RE *NOT* BRUCE.

CLARK WAS *KILLED.*

BRUCE WAS *BROKEN.*

YOU, *DIANA,* REMAIN *UNDEFEATED.*

WILL YOU **KISS** ME?

TODAY THE PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS **COMMITMENT** TO HANDLE WHAT HE HAS LABELED "THE AMAZON PROBLEM."

I CAN'T SEE WHY **NOT.**

THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN TWO MONTHS OF **CALM** FOLLOWING WONDER WOMAN'S RECENT DISAPPEARANCE.

I **LOVE** YOU, YOU KNOW.

I'M NOT **REAL,** YOU KNOW.

BUT THE **THREAT** THE AMAZONS REPRESENT REMAINS, AND THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF WHAT HE CALLED A **POSSIBLE INVASION.**

STEVEN...

...DO YOU **REALLY** THINK I CARE?

WHEN ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON HIS **INVASION** COMMENT, THE PRESIDENT CLAIMED THAT AN AMAZON INVASION COULD BE EITHER PHYSICAL **OR** CULTURAL.

"THEY GET INTO OUR **MINDS,**" HE SAID.

THERE IS A STRANGE THING ABOUT *LOVE.*

CORNER POCKET.

JUST *ONE?*

TO BE IN LOVE, ONE GIVES PART OF THEIR *SOUL* TO ANOTHER, I THINK.

IT IS NOT *ONE* WAY--IT IS AN *EXCHANGE.* SOME FOR SOME.

CLACK

CLACK

I WAS RIGHT BEFORE. YOU ARE *NOT* NOTHING, THEN.

YOU ARE WHAT WAS *GIVEN* TO ME--WHAT I *ALWAYS* CARRY.

WHAT HAS NOW, IN THESE DARK DAYS, CARRIED *ME.*

CORNER POCKET.

YOU *WIN.*

SHOULD WE GO AGAIN?

SOUNDS GOOD, YES.

I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE SOME *TIME* TO KILL.

YOUR TURN TO RACK.

WE WERE NOT ***IGNORANT*** IN PARADISE BEFORE YOUR ***PLANE CRASH,*** STEVEN.

WE ***WATCHED*** YOU. READ YOUR BOOKS. HEARD YOUR SONGS. SAW THESE ***MOVIES.***

I, MYSELF, LIKED THE ***WESTERNS*** VERY MUCH. HORSES AND HATS AND GOOD MEN AND BAD.

MY ***MOTHER,*** SHE DID NOT APPROVE OF THIS PASSION. BUT SHE COULD NOT TAKE IT FROM ME.

FOR ***FESTIVAL,*** SHE EVEN, WITH MUCH RELUCTANCE, GIFTED ME THESE PAINTINGS, ***WESTERN*** PAINTINGS, FROM A ***SPANISH*** ARTIST.

IT ANNOYED HER ***ALL*** OVER WHEN I HUNG THEM IN MY ROOM.

IN THE SMALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT, I WOULD STARE AT THESE PICTURES WHEN I COULD NOT SLEEP. WHEN THE ***TERRORS*** CAME.

I LET MYSELF ***DRIFT*** INTO THEIR WORLD. I SAW MYSELF ON A ***HORSE,*** RIDING, LASSOING.

IT WAS ***ANOTHER*** WORLD, BUT I WAS ***THERE.***

I LEARNED THAT THIS TOO IS A WAY TO ***ESCAPE,*** TO GO ***INTO*** YOURSELF.

AND IT IS ***NOT*** REAL, NO, OR NOT AS REAL AS ***OTHER*** WORLDS.

BUT IT IS LIKE YOU, ***STEVEN:*** GORGEOUS. INSIDE AND OUT.

SHE WAS A SOCIAL ANIMAL, YOUR MOTHER. ONE WHO THRIVED IN THE LIGHT OF OTHERS.

IT WAS HER COMPASSION, HER ABILITY TO SENSE HOPE IN THE MISBEGOTTEN, THAT SO PERPETUALLY INVIGORATED HER.

OPEN IT.

AND SO, AFTER THAT IMPUDENT WOMAN TORE MY LEGACY, MY LASSO, **ISOLATION** WAS THE PUNISHMENT I BESTOWED UPON HER.

THE TORTURE I WAS SO SURE WOULD BRING HER BACK TO ME, CRAWLING, BESEECHING MY FAVOR.

I DENIED HER HUMAN CONTACT FOR WEEKS. THEN MONTHS. LOCKED HER ALONE IN A SMALL CELL WITHOUT COMPANIONSHIP OF ANY KIND.

FINALLY, AFTER WAITING AND WAITING AND WAITING AND WAITING FOR THE PRINCESS'S CONCESSION, I VISITED HER TO DETERMINE THE ACTUAL UTILITY OF THIS STRATEGY.

HOW CLOSE I WAS TO HER DEFEAT.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I FOUND MYSELF DISAPPOINTED.

ALL RIGHT, *OLD MAN.*

WHAT IS *NEXT?*

HOW SHE DID IT, HOW SHE KEPT HER MIND THROUGH THAT MISERY, WHAT COMPANY SHE SAW IN THE DARK...

...I STILL DO NOT KNOW.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SAN FRANCISCO.

CIRCE IS A GREAT, IF TYRANNICAL, SORCERESS. HER POWERS GO BACK TO GODS WHO WOULDN'T GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY.

YOU'RE TRULY FORTUNATE THE THREE OF YOU WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT HER WITHOUT MORE DAMAGE THAN THIS.

YOUR MOTHER, I'M SURE, IS VERY PROUD.

YEAH, SO, APPRECIATE THAT, ZATANNA. BUT...UH, HOW LONG, EXACTLY, UNTIL IT WEARS OFF?

MAGIC ISN'T AN EXACT SCIENCE. IT'S KIND OF THE OPPOSITE, ACTUALLY.

SO... AN HOUR? A WEEK? A MONTH, MAYBE?

AT MOST, A YEAR. I CAN'T SEE IT GOING FARTHER THAN THAT. I THINK.

A...

...YEAR?!

NOTHING LASTS FOREVER, EXCEPT WHEN IT DOES, WHICH HOPEFULLY IT WON'T.

MY ADVICE-- MAGIC REACTS TO BELIEF. TRY TO CONVINCE THEM OF WHO THEY ARE. REMIND THEM OF THEIR TRUE NATURE.

THAT MAY HELP THEM EMERGE FROM THIS STATE WITH MORE ALACRITY.

AND ALSO, PERHAPS ENJOY THIS TIME, ELIZABETH.

YOU AND THEM.

IT'S NOT SO BAD, IS IT?

IT'S NOT GREAT.

"WORLD'S FINEST" PART 6

TOM KING WRITER
BELÉN ORTEGA ARTIST
ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ COLORIST
CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

CHRIS ROSA ASSOCIATE EDITOR · BRITTANY HOLZHERR EDITOR · PAUL KAMINSKI GROUP EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

OKAY, LET'S TRY THIS *AGAIN.* *37TH* TIME IS THE CHARM.

YOU ARE *SUPERMAN.* YOU WANT *TRUTH.* YOU WANT *JUSTICE.* YOU WANT A *BETTER TOMORROW.*

YOU DO *NOT* WANT THE *STICK.*

PARADISE ISLAND.

ARROOF!

WHEN I *THROW* THE STICK, YOU WILL *NOT* CHASE IT. YOU WILL NOT *BITE* IT.

YOU WILL STAY *HERE.*

BECAUSE YOU ARE *THE MAN OF STEEL* AND NOT A *PUPPY DOG.*

NOW, *STAY HERE* AND THEN WE'LL GO OFF AND FIND A NICE *BALD* GUY YOU CAN PUNCH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

OKAY?

LOOK! LOOK AT *THAT!* YOU *DID* IT! YOU'RE HERE!

GOOD *BOY,* GOOD *SUPER-BOY!* YOU--

WAIT, NO...

ZZZZZIPP

=SIGH=

YOU *DO* REALIZE SOMEWHERE OUT THERE A TRAIN IS ON A TRACK AND THERE'S A *GAP* IN THAT TRACK.

A *PERFECT* BLUE-TIGHTS-COVERED-BACK-SIZED *GAP.*

AND BECAUSE *YOU* WANT A *STICK,* EVERYONE ON THAT TRAIN IS GOING TO *DIE.*

MRROOF!

I THINK YOU'LL LIKE *THIS* ONE, DAME.

EARLIER TODAY, WHEN YOU AND JON WERE TAKING YOUR *FIFTH* NAP OF THE MORNING...

...I WENT AND BURIED THE *KNIFE OF THE PHONOI*-- ONE OF THE GREAT MURDER WEAPONS OF *HISTORY*-- SOMEWHERE ON *THIS* BEACH.

WHAT I NEED *YOU* TO DO IS GO OUT IN THE SAND, *SNIFF* AROUND, AND *DIG UP* THAT KNIFE.

BECAUSE WITH *IT*, WE CAN SOLVE *ALL* THE MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT *SIN*.

VERY *BATMAN* THING TO DO, BUT ALSO, YOU GET TO *DIG* IN DIRT.

SO...LITTLE BIT FOR *YOU*, LITTLE BIT FOR *ME*. *BABY* STEPS.

PUPPY STEPS.

OKAY, THIS IS *IT*.

READY... SET...

GO!

AND GO... YOU CAN *DO* IT...

GO!

GET THAT *CLUE* AND SOLVE THAT *MYSTERY* AND...AND...

...AND LIE *DOWN*.

AND SHOW ME YOUR *BELLY*.

AND ASK FOR *SKRITCHES*.

JUST LIKE *BATMAN* WOULD DO.

LATER.

"JONATHAN, I THINK WE JUST NEED TO EXAMINE THE *EVIDENCE* BEFORE US.

"FOR INSTANCE, IF THIS WERE *YOUR* BALL, YOU WOULD *HAVE* IT.

"BUT AS YOU CLEARLY DO *NOT* HAVE IT, I MUST ONLY CONCLUDE THAT IT IS INDEED *MY* BALL."

"*DAME*, YOU'VE HAD THE BALL *LITERALLY* ALL DAY.

"THE BALL DOES *NOT* BELONG TO YOU. IT BELONGS TO *US*. TO *EVERYONE*.

"IT IS *FAIR* THAT WE SHARE IT."

"*FAIR*? WHAT IS *FAIR*? FAIR IS NOTHING. FAIR IS THE *POWER* IN MY FIST.

"FAIR IS THE *KANSAS* IN YOU, THE KENT IN YOU, THE *WEAKNESS* IN YOU.

"IT'S THE *S* ON YOUR SHIRT THAT CLEARLY STANDS FOR *SUCKER*."

"WHY ARE YOU *OBSESSED* WITH THE *S* STANDING FOR *HOPE*?!"

"AT LEAST IT'S A *LETTER*. AT LEAST IT'S *CLOSE*.

"YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN TO ME HOW A *BAT* SYMBOLIZES VENGEANCE AND NOT, I DON'T KNOW, *DEFECATING* UPSIDE DOWN?"

"LOOK, AS FAR AS *YOU'RE* CONCERNED, IN THIS MOMENT...

"...THE BAT STANDS FOR *ONE* THING AND EXACTLY *ONE* THING ONLY.

"IT'S MY BALL!"

=SIGH=

WELL, *THAT* DOES IT. WEEK AFTER WEEK OF THIS, AND NOW I'M *OFFICIALLY* INSANE.

ALL RIGHT, @$%# THIS. WE'RE GOING *OUT*.

MAYBE SAVING THE *DAY* WILL HELP.

IT CAN'T BE *WORSE*.

METROPOLIS.

LOOK, UP IN THE SKY!

IT'S A BIRD!

IT'S A PLANE!

NO!

IT'S A CORGI!

I WAS WRONG. THIS IS WORSE.

WE'RE GOING HOME.

PARADISE ISLAND.

WHAT AM I *DOING?*

I AM THE *DAUGHTER* OF DIANA.

HOLDER OF THE *THREE* LASSOS OF FATE.

I AM *AMAZON,* BRED AND PROVEN.

MY STEEL *TESTED* AND FOUND *UNBENT.*

AND I'VE SPENT AN ENTIRE *MONTH* TAKING CARE OF YOU TWO DOGS, BECAUSE *WHY?*

I SHOULD RUN AWAY. I SHOULD FIND A BATTLE. I *SHOULD...*

I AM NOT SOMEONE WHO TAKES *CARE* OF ANYTHING. I AM SOMEONE WHO *FIGHTS* EVERYTHING.

I SHOULD...

I...I... HAVE TO...

MY MOTHER ALWAYS PLACED *COMPASSION* ABOVE BLOOD.

SHE WAS A *FOOL.*

A *FOOL* WHO RAISED A *FOOL* DAUGHTER.

HERA HELP US *BOTH.*

CIRCE... WHERE'S... WHAT...

WHAT THE @$%# IS GOING ONƧ!

DAMEƧ =YAWN= JONƧ YOU'RE...

YOU'RE *YOU!*

YOU'RE NOT *CORGIS!*

LIZZIE, WHAT IS THISƧ WHAT *HAPPENEDƧ* WE WERE *FIGHTING* CIRCE AND...AND SHE RAISED HER HAND AT US AND...

WE'RE NOT *WHATƧ!*

YOU'RE *SUPERHEROES,* AND YOU DON'T WANT TO GET A *STICK!*

I THINK SHE'S *BROKEN.* DID YOU *BREAK* HERƧ

IF ANYONE *BROKE* HER, DAME, IT WOULD BE *YOU.*

WHAT DOES *THAT* MEANƧ WHY WOULD *I* BREAK HERƧ

ARE YOU BEING *FUNNYƧ* DOES THE *S* STAND FOR *SARCASM* NOWƧ

WHY WOULD I BE *FUNNY* WITH *YOU,* DAMEƧ

YOU HAVEN'T SMILED SINCE YOU WERE *FOUR,* AND I'M PRETTY SURE *THAT* WAS GAS.

WAIT! WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, *WAIT!*

WAS THAT *MY* BALLƧ

I'M JUST *SAYING,* OF THE TWO OF US, BATMAN AND SUPERMAN, *YOU* HAVE A TENDENCY TO *BREAK* THINGS, WHILE I... *FIX* THEM.

THAT'S JUST THE *DYNAMIC* OF THE *DUO.*

THE END.

DC Comics Presents

RAMONA & ME

Brittany Holzherr Writer **June Brigman** Penciller **Roy Richardson** Inker **Trish Mulvihill** Colorist **Janice Chiang** Letterer

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT WORKING IN COMICS IS DISCOVERING ASPECTS OF ITS HISTORY YOU NEVER KNEW BEFORE. SOME PEOPLE SAY WOMEN ARE FINALLY MAKING THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN, BUT THEY COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG. WOMEN HAVE ***ALWAYS*** BEEN IN COMICS-- YOU JUST NEEDED TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

BACK IN 2017, OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MARIE JAVINS, FOUND HERSELF AT BALTIMORE COMIC-CON IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LEGENDARY ***RAMONA FRADON,*** WHO WAS DELIGHTING CROWDS OF FANS WITH HER COMMISSIONS.

RAMONA WAS JUST ABOUT TO TURN 91 AND HADN'T LOST A STEP IN HER ART. MARIE AND I IMMEDIATELY AGREED THAT RAMONA SHOULD BE WORKING AT DC AGAIN. AN EMAIL LED TO A PHONE CALL AND THE REST WAS HISTORY.

ALWAYS PROMPT BUT HER OWN WORST CRITIC, RAMONA CONSISTENTLY APOLOGIZED FOR HER "LAZINESS" EVEN AS SHE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TURN IN SKETCHES FOR REVIEW ALONG WITH A HILARIOUS POLITICAL CARTOON. I COULDN'T HELP BUT RUN THE ART AROUND THE OFFICE AND SHARE IN LAUGHS WITH MY COWORKERS AS WE MARVELED AT HER TALENT.

COVID CAME AND TURNED THE WORLD AND COMICS UPSIDE DOWN. AS MUCH AS THE PANDEMIC TORE US APART, IT ALSO BROUGHT SOME OF US CLOSER, SERVING AS A REMINDER OF HOW IMPORTANT COMPANIONSHIP IS.

RAMONA AND I STAYED IN TOUCH AND EVENTUALLY SHE INVITED ME OVER. IN ANTICIPATION, I ASKED HER IF SHE MISSED ANY FOOD FROM HER TIME LIVING IN MANHATTAN. SHE IMMEDIATELY ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC DESSERT. TO SATISFY HER FAMOUS SWEET TOOTH, I DROVE UPSTATE WITH SFOGLIATELLA IN HAND.

RAMONA GREETED ME LIKE A ***LONG-LOST FRIEND,*** WHICH LED TO MANY MORE VISITS. WE IMMEDIATELY BONDED OVER OUR SHARED LOVE OF COMIC STRIPS AND THE CITY, BUT SOON THE CONVERSATION MOVED PAST COMICS AND ONTO LIFE IN GENERAL.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO DISCOVER THAT RAMONA WASN'T JUST AN ARTIST WITH HER PEN BUT WITH HER ***WORDS*** TOO. HER STORIES PAINTED A PICTURE OF A LIFE LIVED TO ITS FULLEST. AFTER HOURS OF TALKING--WITH OCCASIONAL PAUSES TO GIVE PETS TO HER DOG, CHARLIE--I ALWAYS LEFT RAMONA'S HOME INSPIRED AND REINVIGORATED TO MAKE MY MARK ON THE WORLD OF COMICS LIKE SHE DID.

AT THE BEGINNING OF 2024, RAMONA ANNOUNCED HER FORMAL ***RETIREMENT*** FROM DRAWING AFTER SEVENTY-PLUS YEARS IN THE BUSINESS.

DURING OUR LAST VISIT, I STRUGGLED TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY GOODBYE TO A FRIEND, BUT HER WARM SMILE SERVED AS A COMFORT. WE SPOKE OF THE FUTURE AND HOW EXCITED SHE WAS TO FINALLY SEE ***METAMORPHO*** ON THE BIG SCREEN. I'M SORRY SHE WILL NEVER GET THE CHANCE, BUT I KNOW THE PARTS OF HERSELF SHE POURED INTO HER BELOVED CO-CREATION WILL SHINE THROUGH.

RAMONA WOULD ALWAYS REMARK THAT WOMEN IN COMICS WERE LARGELY OVERLOOKED, BUT WITH STORIES LIKE THIS, I HOPE THEIR MEMORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE KEPT ALIVE FOR YEARS TO COME.

SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAPERS, RAMONA.

"Mom saw the whole world through her creative imagination. She could make faces and characters from trees or rocks, was awed by light playing on a wall, and saw patterns that I would never have seen. Drawing was her anchor and her best friend. She had beautiful, capable hands that could draw, build, upholster, cook, craft, and comfort. She was my Wonder Woman, for sure." – Amy Fradon

For more quotes remembering Ramona, please visit: DC.com/remembering-ramona

A BOLD NEW DIRECTION FEATURING HEROIC TEAM-UPS!

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THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #13

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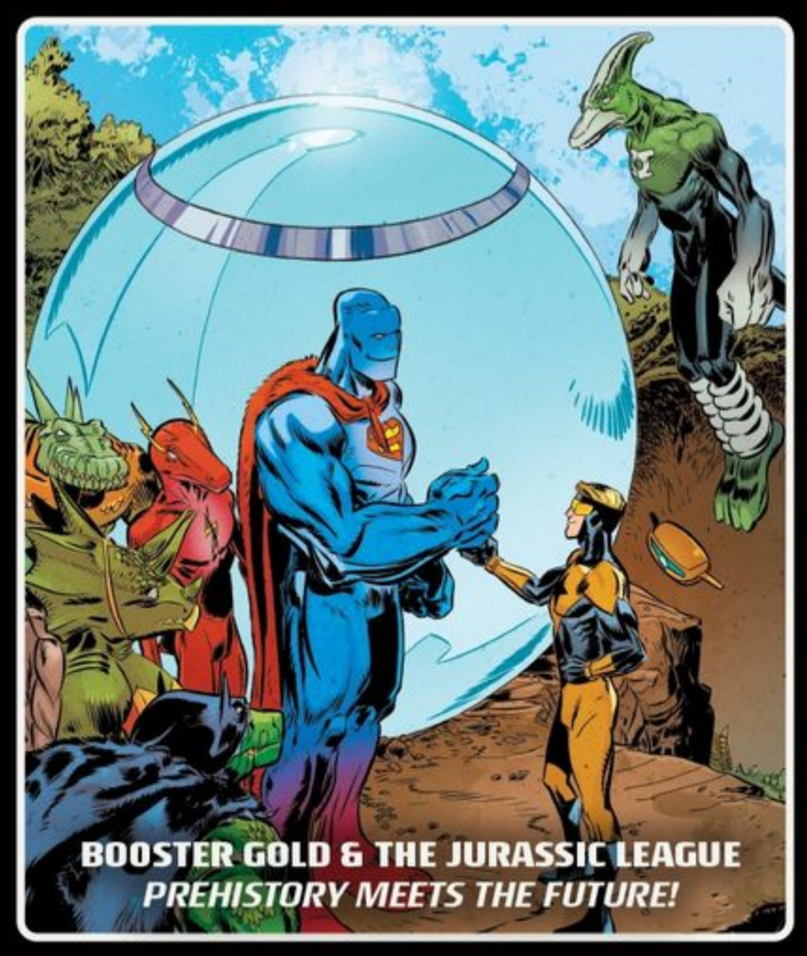

BOOSTER GOLD & THE JURASSIC LEAGUE
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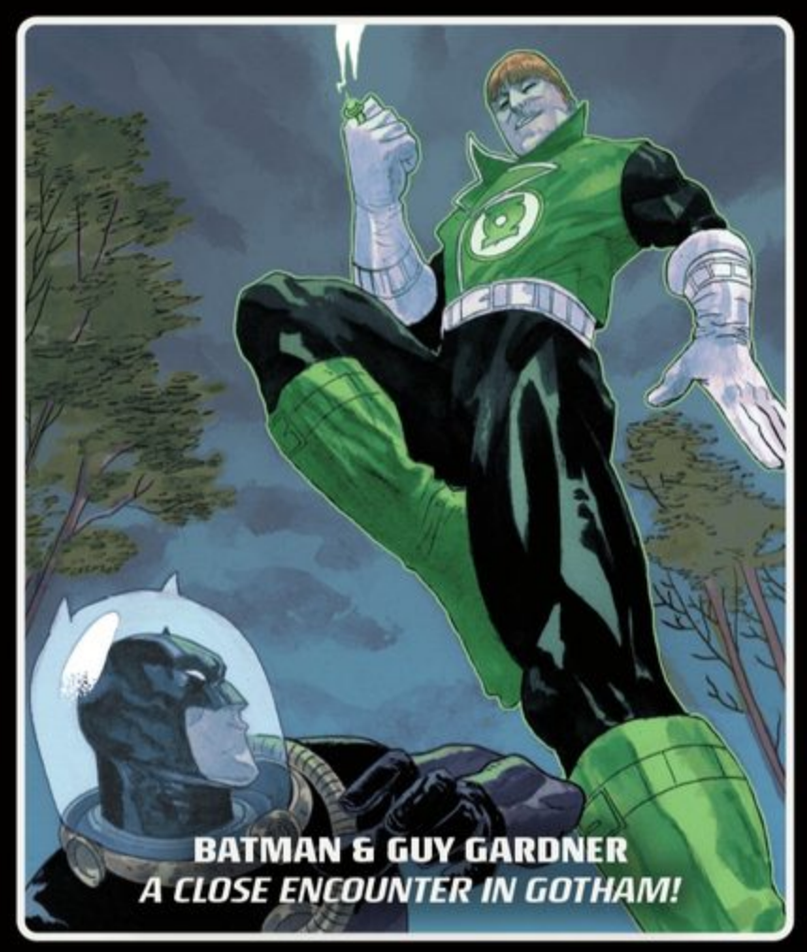

BATMAN & GUY GARDNER
A CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN GOTHAM!

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MAY

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE BOY WONDER

INTERVIEW WITH JUNI BA

Visionary writer/artist Juni Ba makes his mark on the timeless story of Batman and Robin in *The Boy Wonder*. When Batman is forced to leave Gotham, a demon begins stalking its dark alleys. Can Damian Wayne learn to battle alongside his adoptive brothers and learn what the mantle of Robin really means? DC Nation sat down with Ba to discuss this five-issue series.

The DCU has such a rich universe of heroes and villains. How did you settle on Robin as the focus for your first story at DC?

I already had ideas for it before DC ever hired me on anything! It was very specifically a personal project of working on a preestablished concept I found interesting. As to why Robin, I think it's because he was the embodiment of the childlike fun at the heart of superheroes. He's a kid who gets to go on crazy adventures with a cool hero, and together they do what's right. This story, though, is about going on adventures with the other child heroes, learning from them, finding solidarity, family, and a way to even surpass the original role your mantle entails.

Why did you specifically choose Damian as the main Robin in *The Boy Wonder*, teaming up with a different former Robin each issue?

Probably because I love him the most. He's such an annoying brat, but also a kid who has to overcome a lot of issues, and I sympathized a lot with that. He's the most recent Robin and he's a great surrogate for the audience to discover this world and his predecessors. And most of all: he's not at all a beacon of perfection like most DC Super Heroes are expected to be, and that makes him a great character to explore this idea of feeling inadequate. Not realizing your own potential as something simply different.

As both a writer and artist, how is your style bringing something to Robin that fans have never seen before?

I think I'm really tapping into a storytelling style that mixes cartoony and character-focused form. It may look cartoony, but I think I managed to find an angle for every team-up story that delves into the complexities of the characters, Damian especially of course, and makes for a great synthesis of these characters for people to discover.

It's designed to be accessible to anyone and especially people with no prior knowledge. So for those who know this world, it's a great summary and a new adventure with some fun twists on familiar things. And for those who don't even know what the Batman world is like, this is for you. You're welcome and encouraged to get in!

DON'T MISS
***THE BOY WONDER* #1,**
ON SALE NOW!

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Ages 13+

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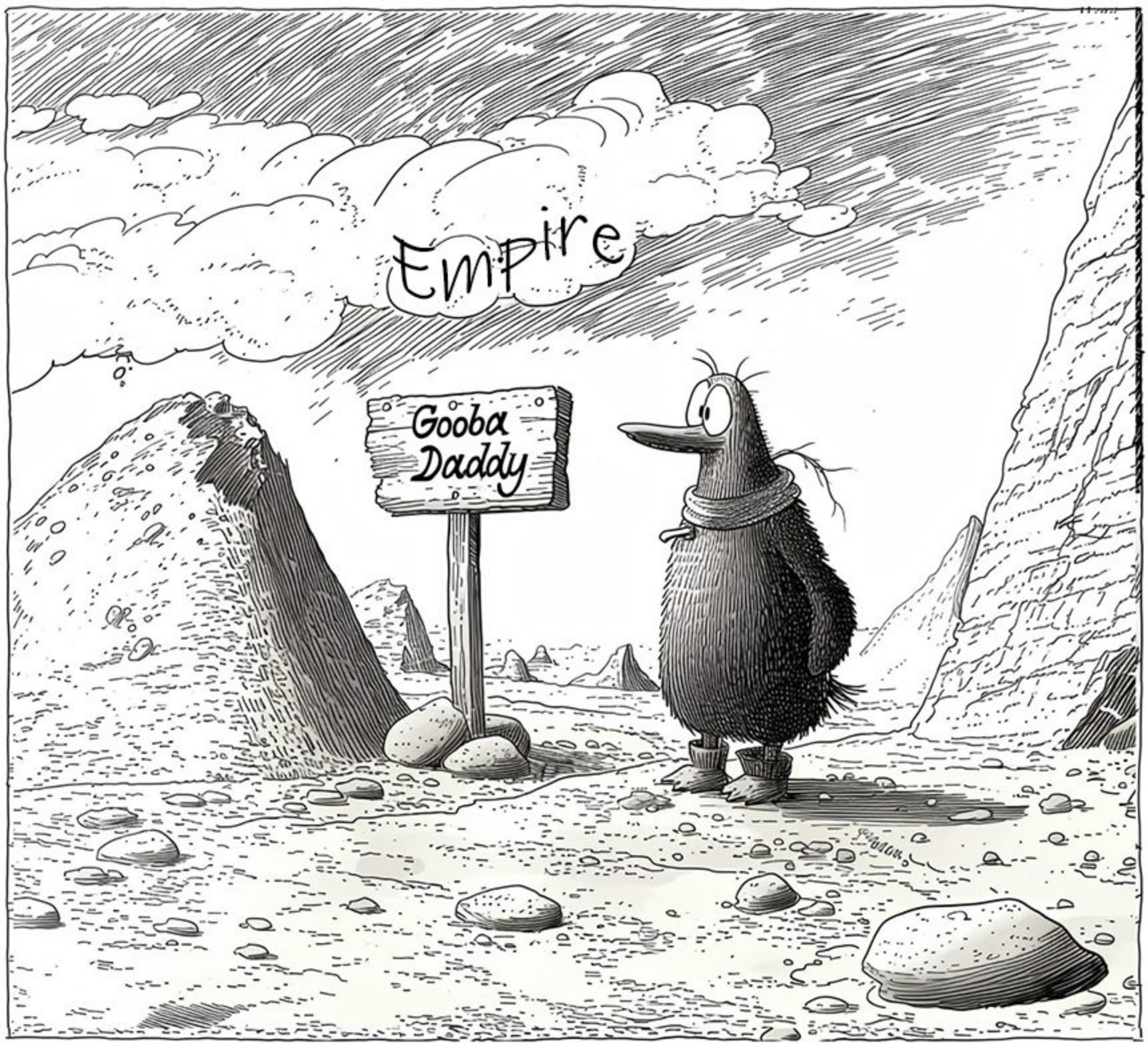
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